

REMARKS

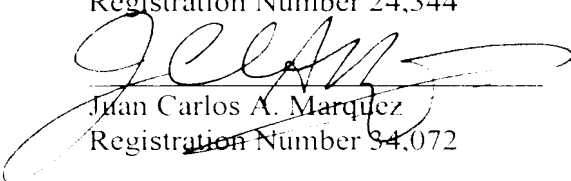
The above election along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action dated May 7, 2003, the period for response to which will expire on June 7, 2003. The Examiner is respectfully requested to review the substance of Species a and its relevant generic claims: claims 1-6, 22-36, 38, 41-43 and to indicate the allowability of the claims.

Claims 1-6, 22-36, 38, 41-43, according to Figs. 1 and 9, have elected in this application, while the other claims are withdrawn from further prosecution without prejudice. Applicants hereby reserve the right to file a divisional application on any or all of the non-elected claims.

Substantive consideration of the elected claims is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley P. Fisher
Registration Number 24,344



Juan Carlos A. Marquez
Registration Number 34,072

REED SMITH LLP
3110 Fairview Park Drive
Suite 1400
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
(703) 641-4200

June 4, 2003

SPF/JCM/JT